

# Young Yup'ik passes traditional test

By Anna Phillip

Tuluksak Correspondent

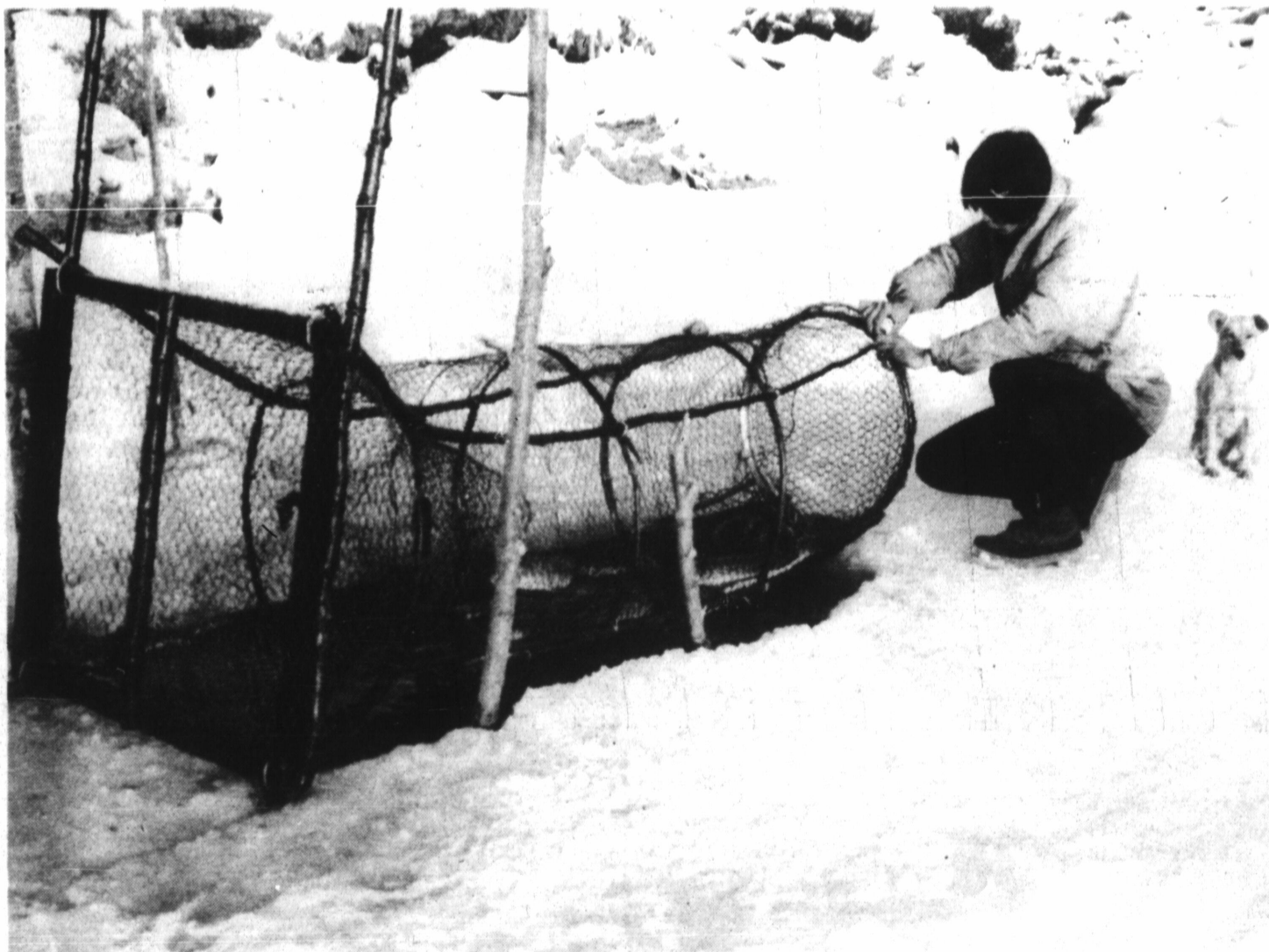
There comes a time for a young man to learn the basic way of life in his Native culture. His father will then take him out into the wilderness to teach him the skills necessary to make a good living in the subsistence lifestyle.

Every day his father will go with him and show him how to set the traps and how to do all the things he needs to do. When the young man makes a mistake, his father will correct him. When the time finally comes, his father will send the young man out alone to test his knowledge.

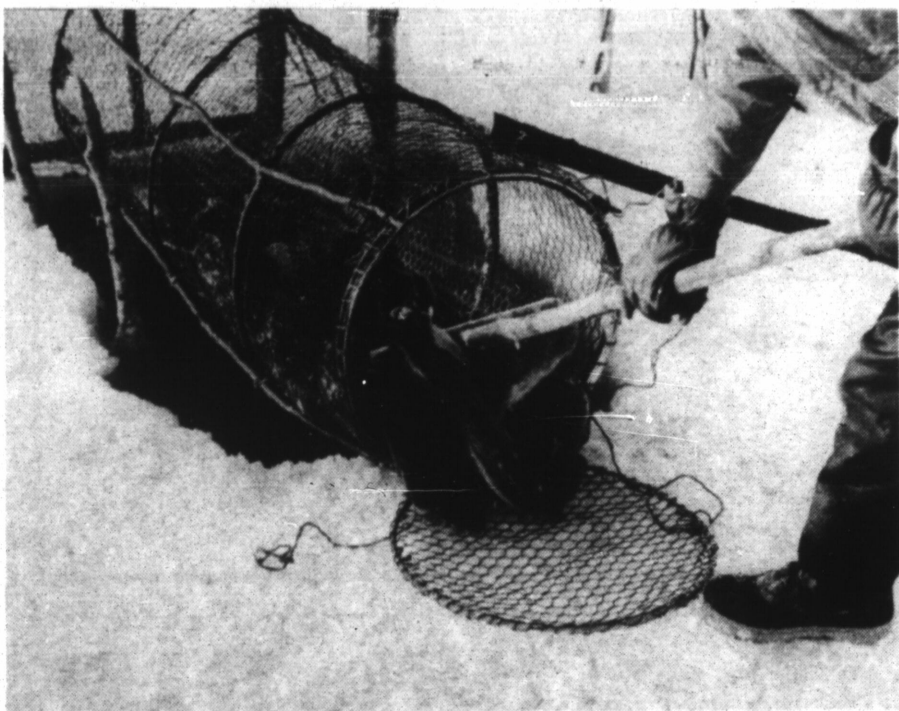
The next day, the father will go back out with the young man to see what he has learned.

It was fun for me to go out and check the lush fish traps with my brother David when it came time for his test. I could see that he had learned much. I was proud of him. He had been very concerned to succeed in his test. We are being taught our culture outside the classroom system.

We get tested not on paper, but by action.



David Phillip pulls up a fish-laden trap which he built and set himself. Phillip lives in the Kuskokwim River village of Tuluksak.



David removes the lush fish.



A quick blow finishes off the fish.



The dog watches the action.



Brother Joe does a little ice fishing of his own.

PHOTOS BY ANNA PHILLIP